

# THE TEELIN TIMES

COLUMBIA – MILLERSVILLE – TIMONIUM

NOVEMBER 2008

## Maureen Berry Gately, TCRG

Owner / Director  
maureen@teelin.com  
443-629-7808

## Kathleen Berry Young

Owner / Business Manager  
kathleen@teelin.com  
443-414-4144

## GENERAL INFORMATION

info@teelin.com  
443-629-7808  
[www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com)

Performances available by the  
**Teelin Irish Dance Company**  
Maureen Berry, Director  
[performances@teelin.com](mailto:performances@teelin.com)

Dance Classes at 3 Locations:

**Teelin School of Irish Dance**  
9160 Red Branch Road, Suite E-3  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Teelin Classes in Millersville**  
Stage Workz  
1035 Benfield Blvd, Suite E  
Millersville, MD 21108

**Teelin Classes in Timonium**  
Megan Rich Physical Therapy  
9492 Deereco Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

Please do not send mail to  
studio addresses. Business  
correspondence may be sent to

Teelin  
1 Class Court  
Parkville, MD 21234



SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

November is here - time for our Teelin Ceili! It's going to be a great party, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Also in this issue... mark your calendars for "Parent Week" when observations are welcomed and encouraged in all classes; read about our champion dancers who will be competing at Oireachtas; and please note the schedule of make-up classes due to the trip to Florida for the Regional Championships.

Happy Thanksgiving, Teelin Family! I am grateful for each of you!

~Maureen

## IRISH DANCE - A PARENT PRIMER

Parents who are new to Irish dance, have your dancers started mumbling unintelligible steps while seemingly skipping around the house? They may be hooked! Welcome to this exciting new world! To catch you up to speed, we offer a quick introduction to a few of the basics of Irish dance.... (And you can share this with curious relatives at Thanksgiving!)

When *Riverdance* hit the world stage in 1995, it brought to public attention an aspect of Irish culture which previously had been largely confined to St. Patrick's Day celebrations, cultural events and dance competitions. Since then, the popularity of Irish dance has skyrocketed. New schools are emerging all around the world.

What is Irish step dancing, you ask? "Steps" are the series of movements (or the routine) of a dance. There are two sections of every step, right and left, and each "foot" of the step is made up of 8 bars of music. With the exception of the traditional set dances, steps are created by the instructors of an Irish dance school, and are unique to that particular school.

Each step corresponds to the rhythm and measure of music. The "easiest" tempos in Irish dance are the *reel* and the *light jig*, and are therefore the first dances taught. (Easy, eh? Try it!!!) These are danced in soft shoes. As dancers progress, they learn more complicated reel and jig steps, as well as *slip jigs*. *Treble jigs* and *hornpipes* are the first hard shoe dances taught, first at traditional speed and later at a slower speed, which allows for more complicated footwork. Experienced dancers will also learn *treble reels* and *set dances*, both performed in hard shoes.

Dancers at Teelin begin by learning solo steps, which are dances that can be performed independently. *Figure dances* are performed in teams comprised of several dancers and are usually named by the number of dancers in the group. A 4-hand, for example, will have 4 dancers in it. Like solo steps, figure dances are unique to the particular school, with the exception of the traditional *ceili* (pronounced "kaylee") dances. These are the same regardless of who dances them.

Some Irish dance enthusiasts choose to dance in competition, which can be a great way to stay motivated while striving to master steps. Visit the "Feis Information" pages of the Teelin website to learn more about Irish dance competitions.

Whether dancers choose to compete, perform, or dance recreationally, we're very glad that you've chosen to be a part of Teelin! Welcome to the FUN of Irish dance!

## Resources:

Friend, Pat. "Irish Step-Dancing: A Living Tradition" <http://www.allaboutirish.com/library/dance/dancehist.shtml>  
Diochra.com, Irish Dancing Online. [www.diochra.com](http://www.diochra.com)

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Teelin School of Irish Dance

Questions, comments? Want to submit a story? Send an email to [info@teelin.com](mailto:info@teelin.com).

### Dance Studio Reminders:

Please arrive for class on time, dressed appropriately.

Bring a water bottle (or purchase one for \$1 from the lobby at Columbia studio).

No chewing gum.

No sitting during class. If you're on the floor, you should be stretching!

No hanging on the barre.

No long or baggy pants. Teachers must be able to see your knees.

Please respect the studio space.

Collect all belongings, remove litter, use recycling bins where available.

### Inclement Weather/ Emergencies:

If weather is questionable, please call 443-629-7808 to hear the school message. Notice will also be posted on the website ASAP. **We will not always follow the public school closures.** Make-up classes for any closures will be scheduled as necessary.

### Absence:

If you miss a class, you may attend another class at the same level (or a level below) within one week of your return. Please notify the instructor in advance.

### Stay Informed!

1. Keep us updated with your current email address. Send changes to [info@teelin.com](mailto:info@teelin.com).
2. Visit [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com) often for news and updates.
3. Read and use the Teelin School Message Board!

Dancers, are you addicted to the joy of Irish Dance?! You may want to consider one or both of these opportunities...

### DANCE COMPETITIONS

A **feis** (pronounced "fesh") is an Irish dance competition. Competing is a great way to focus on improving your technique. Learn more on the website at [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com)...

### PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Love to perform? Keep practicing!! And then consider auditioning for the **Teelin Irish Dance Company!** Learn more at [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com)...



**Dance, dance,  
wherever you may be!**



# 4th Annual Teelin CEILI

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**  
**6:00pm - 9:00pm**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**School Auditorium**  
**4795 Ilchester Road**  
**Ellicott City, MD 21043**

### PARENT WEEK – November 17-20

Curious to see what your dancer is learning?! Observations are welcome and encouraged in all classes during the week of Nov 17-20. Enjoy!

### TEELIN DANCERS TO COMPETE AT OIREACHTAS

On December 6&7 there will be 24 Teelin Dancers competing at the Regional Championships in Orlando, Florida! To learn more about Oireachtas please read the article "Everything You Need to Know About and Oireachtas" at [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com). To our 16 soloists and 6 teams who will be competing, *Adh Mor!* And we're proud of you!

### MAKE-UP CLASSES SCHEDULED

Due to the trip to Florida, some classes will not be held December 8, 9, 10, and 11. Please see the schedule below, or send an email to [info@teelin.com](mailto:info@teelin.com) with questions.

**Mon, Dec 8** – no class for Beg, AB/N Competition, N/PW Competition, Champ Class, and Apprentice Rehearsal

Make-up classes for ALL Monday classes will be held **Mon, Nov 24**, same times as regular class times

**Tues, Dec 9** – no class for Millersville Competition Class or Columbia Champ Class and Red Troupe Rehearsal

Make-up classes will be held **Tues, Nov 25**, same times as regular class times

**Wed, Dec 10** – no class for Homeschool Beg & Exp classes, Level 4, Level 5, and Black Troupe Rehearsal

Make-up classes will be held **Wed, Nov 26**, same times as regular class times

**Thurs, Dec 11** – no class for any of the Timonium classes, or for Columbia Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 classes

Make-up classes will be held in Timonium on **Sat, Nov 29** at 12noon, 12:50, and 1:50pm;

and also in Columbia on **Sat, Nov 29** at 1pm for Level 1 class and at 2pm for Level 2 & Level 3 classes

### THINGS TO DO... PLACES TO GO... PEOPLE TO SEE...

Check [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com) for updated information.

**11/2/08** – Feis Culkin (Emmitsburg, MD) – many Teelin students will be competing!

**11/7-9/08** – Maryland Irish Festival, at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium - Teelin Irish Dance Company performs on Friday at 7pm (check the festival website for more information)

**11/9/08** – Coyle Feis (Norristown, PA)

**11/15/08** – **Teelin Ceili!** Please visit [www.teelin.com](http://www.teelin.com) for more info...

**11/17-20/08** – *Parent Week* – observations welcome in all classes

**11/21/08** – Class Card classes (see website for times)

**11/24-30/08** – **Fall Break** - no classes except for Figure Teams class and any make-up classes

**12/6&7/08** – Southern Region Oireachtas (regional Irish dance championships) in Orlando, FL

**12/20/08-1/3/09** – **Winter Break** - no classes

**3/1/09** – **Portraits of Ireland** 3:00pm show at Towson University's Stephens Hall Theater

**3/14/09** – **Portraits of Ireland** 3:00pm show at Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick

**3/15/09** – Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade, followed by Teelin Annual Party at Lucy's Irish Pub

**3/17/09** – **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

**3/27-29/09** – Master Classes by Michael Pat Gallagher

**4/3/09** – Dress Rehearsals & Photos at Jim Rouse Theater in Columbia, MD

**4/4/09** – **Teelin Spring Show** at Jim Rouse Theater in Columbia, MD

**4/6-17/09** – **Spring Break** - no classes (unless make-ups are scheduled)

**5/16/09** – **Teelin Irish Dance Festival** (rain date 5/17/09)

**5/25/09** – **Memorial Day** - no classes

**6/4/09** – Last day of classes for the Teelin school year